

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

June 21, 2013

An informational meeting of the Commission for Human Rights was held on Friday, June 21, 2013 in the agency conference room. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Camille Vella-Wilkinson and Rochelle Bates Lee. Commissioners Iraida Williams, Alberto Aponte Cardona, Esq. Nancy Kolman Ventrone, Alton W. Wiley, Jr. Esq. and John B. Susa, were not present. The meeting commenced at 10:40 a.m.

Cynthia M. Hiatt, Legal Counsel will be reviewed the minutes of the Commission meeting held on May 31, 2013 for approval. At the next Commissioner meeting the Commissioners will review these minutes and may make amendments to the minutes if necessary.

Status Report of Michael D. Evora, Executive Director

A written report was handed out. All new information is in bold print.

Case Production Report – Attached

Aged Case Report – No aged cases to report.

Outreach Report – attached

STATUS REPORT – COMMISSIONERS

STATUS REPORT: Commissioner re-appointments still have not been made as of yet.

OUTREACH: Commissioner Vella-Wilkinson reported that she helped established the Warwick Veterans Services Organization. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on June 14, 2013, Flag Day, for the families of the Warwick Veterans Services Organization.

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STATUS REPORT – LEGAL COUNSEL by Cynthia Hiatt and Francis Gaschen

LITIGATION: Report Attached. Discussion of pending litigation in which

the Commission has a role.

LEGISLATION: Commissioners and staff discussed pending legislation.

REGULATIONS: Status of pending regulations discussed. Legal counsel reported that a review of the Commission's procedural regulations has to be submitted to the Governor.

HEARING SCHEDULE: Discussed

DECISIONS: No Report at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. There will be no Commission meeting in July. The next regular meeting will be on Friday, August 30, 2013 at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael D. Evora

Executive Director

Notes taken by B. Ross

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S

REPORT TO COMMISSIONERS

21 June 2013

I. BUDGET

S = State/General Revenue; F = Federal (EEOC/HUD); T = Total

FY 2013	FY 2013	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2014	FY 2014
(Enacted)	(Rev. Req.)	(Supp.)	(Unconstr.)	(Constr.)	(Recomm.)
S 1,137,768	1,137,768	1,133,129	1,192,069	1,121,778	1,150,785
F 325,992	306,689	306,688	258,638	301,405	308,638
T 1,463,760	1,444,457	1,439,817	1,450,707	1,423,183	1,459,423

The Commission's FY 13 (Revised) and FY 14 (Proposed) Budgets were submitted to the Governor on September 25. The submission included a Budget Impact Statement detailing the consequences to be realized should the seven percent general revenue decrease requested of all state agencies be implemented for the Commission [see Constrained Budget above]. On November 2, I met with

representatives of the Budget Office to discuss the Office's pending recommendation to the Governor. On January 22, a bill was introduced which included the above supplemental budget for FY 13 and recommended budget for FY 14. The bill included authorization for the Commission's full 14.5 FTEs for FY 14.

On February 27, I attended the Senate Finance Committee's hearing on the Commission's FY13 and FY14 budgets. On March 13, I attended the hearing on the Commission's FY13 and FY14 budgets before the General Government Subcommittee of House Finance. Both Committees seemed to respond favorably to the Governor's budget recommendation.

On June 18, the House Finance Committee passed a budget which contained the Governor's FY14 Recommended Budget for the Commission as highlighted above.

II. FEDERAL CONTRACTS

EEOC – For federal FY 2012 (beginning October 1, 2011), according to EEOC Project Director Marlene Toribio, we closed 237 co-filed cases.

Our contract with EEOC for FY 2012 was for 235 cases. For federal FY 2013 (beginning October 1, 2012), we have closed 133 co-filed cases. Our contract with EEOC for FY13, received on May 13, is for

199 cases. EEOC Headquarters has explained that all FEPA contracts were unilaterally reduced by 16% this year. Two factors are cited for this reduction: 1) EEOC's FY13 budget started at 91%; 2) the federal sequestration caused another 7% reduction in EEOC funding. We must close an additional 66 cases by September 30 to meet the contract.

HUD – For FY 12, according to HUD Project Director Angela Lovegrove, we took in 40 new housing charges, 37 of which were co-filed with HUD. Within this same time period, we processed 45 housing charges, 43 of which were co-filed with HUD. For FY13 (beginning July 1, 2012), we have taken in 49 new housing charges, all of which are co-filed with HUD. Within this same time period, we have processed 41 cases, 37 of which were co-filed with HUD.

III. PERSONNEL

No new information.

IV. OUTREACH – Refer to attached report.

V. GENERAL STATUS

• Meetings with staff members – I continue to meet with individual investigative staff members on a monthly basis to monitor case production.

●Case Closures – Refer to attached report.

We ended FY 2012 slightly behind the prior fiscal year's case processing rate. In FY 2011, we processed 422 cases; in FY 2012, we processed 411 cases (approx. 3.5% decrease). For FY13 (as of May 31, 2013), we have processed 344 cases (compare to 356 cases in this same time period in FY12).

●Aged Cases – There are no aged cases in the Commission's inventory for federal fiscal year 2013 (beginning October 1, 2012).

●Overall Case Inventory – The Commission had over 1000 cases in its inventory at the end of FY 1998. We ended FY 11 with 323 cases in inventory, and FY 12 with 255 cases. As of 6/20/13, we had a total of 282 cases in inventory; 35 of these cases were pending assignment.

●Performance Management Initiative – On February 1, I met with the Governor's Performance Management Team to discuss the Commission's agreed-upon performance goals. The Team noted that the Commission is one of the only state agencies that consistently complies with the Performance Management Directive in a complete/timely manner. These meetings will occur quarterly. The next scheduled meeting is for July 16, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Évora

Executive Director

Attachments